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PAPERS REVIEWED:

Alif Ba', Al Nasr, Al Manar, Al Fayha', Al Sa'ath, Barada, Al Balad, Al Kifah, Al Masa', Al Qabas, Al Ayyam, Al Insha', Al 'Alam, Al Hadara, Al Nidal, Al Shabab, Al Nazir, Al - Islah, AlSuri, Al Jabal, Asa-al-Jannah.

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DOMESTIC AFFAIRS

US LEGATION PROTESTS & SYRIAN REPLIES:

Al Masa', Barada, And Alif Ba': According to the local reporter for the press, the American Legation at Damascus sent, three days ago, a note to the Syrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in which it protested against press reports concerning the bomb which exploded in the Legation's garden. It also requested the Ministry to put an end to such reports.

In reply, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs stated that the Syrian press was free and uncensored, that each paper publishes its own news, and that the Government does not direct the press. The Ministry's reply also added that the American press printed much exaggerated news on Syria and the Government did not protest against them nor asked for putting an end to them.

Al Nasr...

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Al Nasr: It seems that American Legation officials have viewed with concern public indignation at the American policy which supports Zionism against the Arabs and have resented the attitude of the free papers which have contributed toward creating this indignation. The bomb incident at the Legation had also its effect in creating this public indignation. Legation officials expressed their concern in a note which they submitted to the Syrian Foreign Ministry three days ago protesting against the tone of the papers which reported the bomb incident and requesting the Ministry to check the press campaign which has upset the nerves of Uncle Sam.

The Foreign Ministry, however, maintained that the Syrian press did not transgress the limits of decency, nor did it go so far as to involve itself in any responsibility or blame. Consequently, the Ministry replied to the Legation that Syrian papers were free to publish any articles or items within the limits of the laws and that they were not subject to government control. The Ministry added that papers publish the reports and information which they receive without being directed or guided by official sources.

The Foreign Ministry did not neglect to remind the American Legation that American papers had published many unfounded items of news which disturbed Syrians and caused them great pain in view of strongly pro-Zionist character of the news. Nevertheless, the Syrian Government has not protested against American papers, nor has it requested the American Government to put an end to their campaigns. Why does the American Legation submit such a protest when it does not make any attempt to silence its own papers.

MINISTERIAL CRISIS

Al-Nasr: There have been no developments in connection with the ministerial crisis other than the report that Mr. Akram Hawrani is insisting on his resignation. There is a tendency, however, to believe that the present situation will continue until after the forthcoming meeting of the Political Committee of the Arab League. Attempts are still being made to convince Mr. Hawrani to withdraw his resignation and comply with wishes of the Cabinet which has decided not to accept his resignation. There are indications that these attempts may be successful.

As for the articles of the draft constitution, the Parliamentary groups - the People's Party, the Republican Liberal Bloc and the Independents - have set up a joint committee to discuss the disputed points in the draft constitution. The committee is expected to hold its first meeting this evening, May 2. It seems that yesterday's meeting of the parliamentary groups was characterized by goodwill and understanding.

The Eastern News Agency has learned from informed sources in the People's Party that the Party is willing to reach an understanding

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with the other organisation in an effort to preserve the unity of ranks. Responsible sources in the People's Party have also declared that the Populist Ministers have participated in the Cabinet in their personal capacity and that the Party supported the Cabinet, when it was formed, because the existing circumstances so demanded. The same sources added that it was up to the Executive Office of the Party to decide whether the Populist Ministers were to stay in or withdraw from the Cabinet. The Executive Office has commissioned a liaison committee composed of Kikhya, Qudsi, Qanbar and 'Ass to contact the other parliamentary groups.

As for the Republican Liberal Bloc, it has not changed the attitude which it adopted yesterday. It seems that the Bloc has not succeeded in convincing the other groups to adopt all their proposals.

Al-Manar reports that the Islamic Socialist Front has in the last two days held several meetings to study the present situation and to complete its study of the constitution.

CABINET MEETING

Al-Manar: According to a communique issued by the Directorate of Propaganda and Information, the Council of Ministers held a meeting at Government House yesterday, May 1, under the chairmanship of Mr. Khalid al-'Azm, the Premier and Foreign Minister. The Council discussed export and import matters and ratified a decree amending certain foreign exchange regulations.

Our reporter has learned from very reliable sources that Mr. Hassan Jabbara, the Director of Customs, and Mr. Husni al-Sawwaf, the Secretary General of the Ministry of National Economy, attended the first part of the Cabinet's meeting. After a long debate the Council decided that exporters of certain commodities should supply the country with rare currency in return for their exports.

The Council also decided to refer every teacher who goes on strike to the Court of Justice. It is further reported that the Council did not discuss the question of Mr. Hawrani's resignation.

LABOR DAY

Al Ba'th takes the opportunity of May 1 to exhort workers to believe in Arab socialism and to struggle for the achievement of a just society in which there is no room for tyranny and exploitation. The paper also calls upon the workers to collaborate, intensify the struggle and to participate in political activity. The ruling body which is associated with wealth, high ranks and feudalism can be overcome only if the people assert their rights.

AKRAM HAWRANI CLARIFIES:

Al Balad: A group of foreign correspondents yesterday called on Minister Hawrani at his house and asked him for some clarifications on the motives of his resignation and whether he was going to withdraw his resignation since the Council of Ministers had decided not to accept his resignation. In reply, Minister Hawrani stated: "I still consider myself as having resigned. The acceptance or non-acceptance of my resignation does not change my position. The reasons for my resignation are still the same."

Asked by Al Misri's correspondent about these reasons, Minister Hawrani said: "One of the main reasons is the lack of harmony between the Government and the Constituent Assembly. Very shortly the draft constitution will be debated and the Government should represent all parties and groups. So far the Government has no opinion on the draft constitution, and the rectification of the present ministerial position should be effected before the debate."

Asked by the AP correspondent whether his parliamentary bloc or himself disapproves certain specific articles, Hawrani answered in the affirmative. He said that there were objections to 15 articles, including the powers of the President of the Republic, the transfer of the capital, and the change of the Syrian flag.

Asked by the NY Times correspondent if his parliamentary bloc was prepared to participate in a coalition government with the Populists, Hawrani answered in the affirmative.

In answer to a question posed by the AP correspondent as to what he meant by "lack of harmony" and whether the declarations of Dr. Dawalibi are implied, Minister Hawrani said that Dawalibi's declarations were misunderstood abroad. He added that it is a well known fact that the Arabs prefer to join the other camp rather than becoming a prey to Jews. However, he added, I do not think that the US will continue in its present policy. What we expect from America is neutrality toward the Jews and the Arabs.

Asked by the N.Y. Times' correspondent whether General Staff of the Army supports his resignation, Hawrani said: "The Syrian Army does not interfere in politics and is mainly concerned with training itself. The Commander General of the Army is the President of the Republic and not the Minister of Defense."

EVEN CHILDREN KNOW AMERICAN DESIGNS

Al-Manar observes in an article that American designs on the Arabs have become known to all circles. It seems that Americans have realized this fact and have, temporarily though it may be,

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SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHERS ON STRIKE

Al Kifah: About 150 secondary school teachers held a meeting yesterday evening and took the following resolutions:

1. To demand the annulment of Legislative Decree No. 90 as well as all decrees relative to its implementation. (Leg. Dec. No. 90 provides for the transfer of secondary school teachers to elementary schools whenever the necessity arises).
2. To declare a general strike in Damascus and other Muhafazats with effect from today, May 2, in protest against the aforementioned Decree.
3. To continue the strike until the demands of the teachers are met.
4. To attend their classes half an hour without teaching after which they will resume their strike.

A COMMUNIST DEMONSTRATION IN DAMASCUS

Barada: A small demonstration was organized by communists in Damascus. A police intervention prevented the demonstrators from proceeding to the streets. A number of communists have been arrested.

Communist tracts signed by "Syrian Labor Conference" have been distributed in the city.

TAPLINE

Al Akhbar reports that the TAPline violates daily the terms of the agreement reached with the Syrian Government, that it has employed in Dera' less than ten workers, and that the daily pay of these workers does not exceed 3 Syrian pounds.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN ALEPPO DISSOLVED

Al Nasr: As a protest against the "unjustified intervention on the part of the Ministry of National Economy to change the date of election" the members of the Chamber of Commerce in Aleppo have announced the dissolution of the Chamber. The election date for new membership was fixed for April 15.

ARAB AFFAIRS

WESTERN GALILEE

Al-Nasr proposes in an article that Syria work for annexing Western Galilee to its territory as Jordan annexed eastern Palestine, and as Egypt is expected to do in the case of the Gaza strip. The paper

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directed their propaganda to innocent children. They have been recently distributing gifts to students of elementary schools who do not know that the donors carry the gifts in one hand and conceal the dagger of Brutus in the other. Nevertheless, even children are beginning to discover the truth about their enemies and the friends of their enemies. The gift parcels contain papers on which the addressees are supposed to reply to the senders. A certain child not more than ten years has replied that these gifts would only increase his faith in the national cause and aspirations of the Arabs and would not make him forget the Palestine tragedy.

It is high time that foreigners, the votaries of freedom and psychological experts, should realize that the Arab cannot be sold or purchased and that he suckles patriotism along with his mother's milk.

TRIBAL THREATS

Al 'Alam: The tribal chiefs have expressed their dissatisfaction with the provisions in the constitution relating to tribes. They disagree with the provisions which provides for the abolition of the Tribal Law within a period of ten years, and threaten that if the Assembly insists upon its ratification, they would resign from the Constituent Assembly.

AGREEMENT BETWEEN POPULISTS AND REPUBLICANS

Alif Ba': Minister of Defense Akram al-Hawrani told his colleagues in the Liberal Republican Bloc that he refuses to participate in a Cabinet such as is presently in power. He believes in a party cabinet with a definite program and with responsibility to the party which it represents.

The paper affirms that the Liberal Republicans are in accord with the Minister and have agreed with the populists to form a coalition Government of 4 republicans and 5 populists.

remarks that only Syria and Lebanon are left without an adjacent Palestinian territory which would serve as a strategic base for defense and as an area for settling the refugees who are crowded in the two countries. For certain reasons Lebanon will not and cannot take action in this respect. Syria, however, should adopt the proposal for annexing the Western Galilee district and should, jointly with the other Arab states, negotiate with Britain and America and make the necessary preparations for realizing this objective. It should be noted that the inhabitants of Western Galilee and all the other refugees support Syria's demand for annexing Western Galilee and that the other Arab states have no objection to such annexation. Syria should adopt a realistic policy in which there is no room for illusions or imagination.

'AZM TO SIGN PACT

Al-Nasr: The Secretary General of the Presidency has sent a letter signed by H.E. the Chief of State, to the Secretary General of the Arab League authorizing Premier 'Azm to sign the Collective Security Pact and its appendices.

UN RELIEF AGENCY

Al-Ba'th: It is reported from Amman that the United Nations Refugee Relief Agency officially took over yesterday, May 1, the work of the Red Crescent. General Kannady, the Director of the Agency, will be assisted by a consulting council including representatives from America, Britain, France and Turkey.

The states responsible for the expatriation of the Arab refugees are thus exploiting the material needs of the refugees for the purpose of implementing their imperialistic projects in the Arab countries which are not at all related to the economic development of these countries.

U.S. RECOGNIZED JORDANIAN ANNEXATION

Al Kifah: The AFP reports from Amman that the US Minister Plenipotentiary in Amman has transmitted to the Jordanian Foreign Office a note in which the US Government recognizes the annexation of Eastern Palestine to the Kingdom of Jordan.

ANNEXATION OF GAZA TO EGYPT

Al Kifah: When asked his opinion concerning an ANA report that the Egyptian Government will annex the Arab portion of Palestine which is today under its occupation, Prime Minister Khalid al-'Azm stated, "It is not likely that the Egyptian Government would take such an action. On the contrary, Egypt has said in the Arab League Political Committee meetings that it does not want to annex Gaza to Egyptian territory and that it disapproves the Jordanian action."

POSTPONEMENT OF POLITICAL COMMITTEE MEETING

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Al Nasr: A report from Cairo indicates that Mr. Tawfiq al-Suwaydi the Iraqi Premier has cabled to the Secretary General of the Arab League requesting that the date of the Arab League Political Committee meeting be postponed until the 10th of May.

ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

SYRIAN ECONOMY AND IMPORT & EXPORT OPERATIONS

Barada: Our reporter interviewed Mr. Hasan Jabbara, the Director General of the Customs, and asked him about the works of the Ministerial Committee which was set up to carry out economic studies. Mr. Jabbara stated that the Committee has held several meetings and divided its work into two parts. The first concerns matters which urgently require study and approval, and the second concerns the preparation of lists of imports and the decrees relative to import policy.

When asked about the customs revenues following economic separation with Lebanon, Mr. Jabbara stated:

"The discussion of customs revenues is premature in view of the fact that we are now in a transitory stage. At present customs revenues have exceeded the share of the Syrian Government under the Common Interests."

When asked if the Syrian Government would prevent the passage of transit goods, Mr. Jabbara affirmed that Syria would not.

TRADE NEGOTIATIONS

Al-Manar: Dr. Ma'ruf al-Dawalibi, the Minister of National Economy, declared that the Syrian Government had requested the Iraqi Government to hasten the commencement of Syro-Iraqi trade negotiations stating that there was no need to await the return of the Syrian delegation from the Syro-Egyptian trade negotiations, as the Iraqi Government had desired.

When asked whether the Syrian Government had been invited to participate as a third party in the Iraqi-Lebanese trade negotiations Minister Dawalibi replied that no such invitation has been extended either by Iraq or Lebanon. The Minister added that the Syrian Government welcomed the strengthening of economic relations between the Arab states, whether collective or bilateral.

Referring to the Syro-Egyptian trade negotiations, Minister Dawalibi stated that the date of the return of the Syrian delegation had not yet been fixed and that reports indicated that the negotiations were making good progress.